

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 27-42 have been added and therefore are pending in the present application. Claims 27-42 are supported by claims 1-26. Furthermore, the temperature optimum recited in claim 27 is supported by page 32, line 33 of the specification and the percent identities recited in claims 29-32 are supported by page 11, lines 13-24 of the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. The Rejection of Claims 1-5 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-5 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office objected to the sequence identifier recited in claim 1, the phrase "an analogue of the polypeptide which is at least 75% homologous with the polypeptide" recited in claim 5, and the improper dependency recited in claim 24.

Claims 1-5 and 22-24 have been rewritten as claims 27-42 to address the above objections. Applicants therefore submit that this rejection has been overcome.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1-5, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-5, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dhillon et al. (Biotechnol. Lett., Vol. 7(9): 695-697 (1985)). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dhillon et al. disclose a *Bacillus licheniformis* endoglucanase having a temperature optimum of 55°C.

However, Dhillon et al. do not disclose endoglucanases having a temperature optimum of 65°C, as claimed herein. Applicants therefore submit that this rejection has been overcome.

III. The Rejection of Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Dhillon et al. in view of Olsen et al. (WO 95/26398). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed in Section II, Dhillon et al. do not teach or suggest endoglucanases having a temperature optimum of 65°C, as claimed herein.

Applicants submit that Olsen et al. do not cure the deficiencies of Dhillon et al. Olsen et al. describe enzyme compositions comprising an endoglucanase and one or more other enzymes.